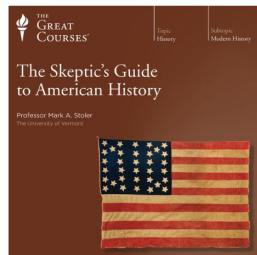
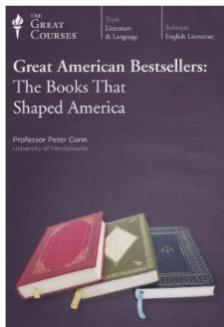


The Great Courses

Audio & Video Lectures from the World's Best Professors



AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER

The American Identity

1 book, 8 DVDs

What defines an American? Is it the love of liberty, the pursuit of justice, the urge to invent, the desire for wealth, the drive to explore, the quest for spiritual values? The paradox of the American identity is that although the United States is a melting pot of many different traditions, motives, and ideals, there are nevertheless distinctive qualities that define the American character.



In this course, historian Patrick N. Allitt investigates the national character by introducing you to notable Americans from all eras of the nation's history, whose lives speak eloquently about the qualities that make one truly American.

48 Lectures

- 1 Being American
- 2 John Smith—The Colonial Promoter
- 3 William Penn—The Religious Liberty Advocate
- 4 Cotton Mather—The Puritan
- 5 Benjamin Franklin—The Improver
- 6 Francis Marion—The Guerrilla Soldier
- 7 Thomas Jefferson—The Patriot
- 8 Abigail Adams—The First Lady
- 9 Mother Ann Lee—The Religious Founder
- 10 Rittenhouse and Bartram—The Scientists
- 11 Eli Whitney—The Inventor
- 12 Lewis and Clark—The Explorers
- 13 Charles Grandison Finney—The Revivalist
- 14 Horace Mann—The Educator
- 15 Ralph Waldo Emerson—The Philosopher
- 16 Frederick Douglass—The Abolitionist
- 17 Edmund Ruffin—The Champion of Slavery
- 18 Brigham Young—The Religious Autocrat
- 19 Frederick Law Olmsted—The Landscape Architect
- 20 William Tecumseh Sherman—The General
- 21 Louisa May Alcott—The Professional Writer
- 22 Andrew Carnegie—Conscience-Stricken Entrepreneur
- 23 "Buffalo Bill"—The Westerner
- 24 Black Elk—The Holy Man
- 25 John Wesley Powell—The Desert Theorist
- 26 William Mulholland—The Water Engineer
- 27 Samuel Gompers—The Trade Unionist
- 28 Booker T. Washington—The "Race Leader"
- 29 Emma Goldman—The Anarchist
- 30 Abraham Cahan—The Immigrants' Advocate
- 31 Isabella Stewart Gardner—The Collector
- 32 Oliver Wendell Holmes—The Jurist
- 33 Henry Ford—The Mass Producer
- 34 Harry Houdini—The Sensationalist
- 35 Al Capone—The Crime Boss
- 36 Herbert Hoover—The Humanitarian
- 37 Helen Keller—The Inspiration
- 38 Duke Ellington—The Jazzman

- 39 Charles Lindbergh—The Aviator
- 40 Douglas MacArthur—The World-Power Warrior
- 41 Leonard Bernstein—The Musical Polymath
- 42 Shirley Temple—The Child Prodigy
- 43 George Wallace—The Demagogue
- 44 William F. Buckley, Jr.—The Conservative
- 45 Roberto Clemente—The Athlete
- 46 Betty Friedan—The Feminist
- 47 Jesse Jackson—The Civil Rights Legatee
- 48 Stability and Change

Before 1776: Life in the American Colonies

1 book, 6 DVDs

The history of colonial America is a story of extraordinary scope, with Europeans, Africans, and the native peoples of North America interacting in a drama of settlement and conflict that lasted nearly three centuries. In the midst of it, no one would have predicted that the profoundly different English colonies along the East Coast, separated by religion, politics, economics, and many other factors, would eventually join to form the United States of America.



Yet the seeds for this outcome and the future character of the United States were germinating in developments such as these:

- **The Mayflower Compact:** As the Mayflower lay anchored in Massachusetts Bay in 1620, the Pilgrims drew up an agreement committing themselves to self-government. No other colony in the New World—French, Spanish, or Dutch—asserted such a right.
- **The Quaker colony:** America's core ideals of democracy, fair trade, religious freedom, and social mobility first came together in the 1680s with the founding of William Penn's Quaker colony of Pennsylvania—"the best poor man's country in the world," praised one early visitor.
- **The Great War for Empire:** Also called the French and Indian War, this global clash of empires began in North America with an attack led by the young militia captain George Washington. Lasting from

1754 to 1763, it ended with England and her colonies as the preeminent power on the continent.

Indeed, the events that led from the first permanent English settlement at Jamestown in 1607 to the Boston Tea Party in 1773, on the eve of the American Revolution, tell us who we are as citizens of the New World, what ideas and traditions shaped us, what our ancestors experienced, and how the United States came to be.

Before 1776: Life in the American Colonies tells this epic story in 36 spellbinding lectures by Professor Robert J. Allison of Suffolk University in Boston. An acclaimed teacher, Professor Allison is also an eminent scholar who has served as an advisor to several prestigious museums and historical societies in Massachusetts, including the Commonwealth Museum at the State Archives in Boston.

36 Lectures

- 1 The World before Colonial America
- 2 Spain's New World Empire
- 3 John Smith, Pocahontas, and Jamestown
- 4 Virginia and the Chesapeake after Smith
- 5 The Pilgrims and Plymouth
- 6 The Iroquois, the French, and the Dutch
- 7 The Puritans and Massachusetts
- 8 New England Heretics—Religious and Economic
- 9 The Connecticut Valley and the Pequot War
- 10 Sugar and Slaves—The Caribbean
- 11 Mercantilism and the Growth of Piracy
- 12 South Carolina—Rice, Cattle, and Artisans
- 13 New Netherland Becomes New York
- 14 King Philip's War in New England
- 15 Bacon's Rebellion in Virginia
- 16 Santa Fe and the Pueblo Revolt of 1680
- 17 William Penn's New World Vision
- 18 The New England Uprising of 1689
- 19 Witchcraft in New England
- 20 Captives and Stories of Captivity
- 21 The Indians' New World
- 22 Family Life and Labor in Colonial America
- 23 Smallpox, 1721—The Inoculation Controversy
- 24 France, Senegal, and Louisiana
- 25 Georgia—Dreams and Realities
- 26 The Atlantic Slave Trade and South Carolina
- 27 The New York Conspiracy of 1741
- 28 The Great Awakening
- 29 The Albany Conference of 1754
- 30 The Great War for Empire
- 31 Pontiac's Revolt against the British
- 32 Imperial Reform—The Sugar and Stamp Acts
- 33 North Carolina Regulators Seek Local Rule
- 34 Virginia—Patrick Henry and the West
- 35 Destruction of Tea and Colonial Rebellion
- 36 Independence and Beyond

Classics of American Literature

1 book, 14 DVDs

To truly understand the United States of America, you must explore its literary tradition. Works by Melville, Whitman, Faulkner, Hemingway, and others are more than just masterpieces of Western literature

– they're powerful windows into America's spirit. According to Professor Arnold Weinstein, "American classics are wonderfully rich fare. America is a mythic land, a place with a sense of its own destiny and promise, a place that has experienced bloody wars to achieve that destiny. The events of American history shine forth in our classics."



When was the last time you read them? Possibly not as recently as you'd like. Why? Not because you wouldn't love it. But perhaps the demands of your daily life or some other reason have prevented this pleasure. Now, here is the opportunity to gain an extraordinary familiarity with each of these authors within a manageable amount of time, as well as review the great works you may already know.

From *Sleepy Hollow* to *The Great Gatsby*, Professor Weinstein contends that the literary canon lives, grows, and changes. What links these writers to each other—and to us readers today—is the awareness that the past lives and changes as generations of writers and readers step forward to interpret it anew.

84 Lectures

- 1 Introduction to Classics of American Literature
- 2 Benjamin Franklin's Autobiography—The First American Story
- 3 Washington Irving—The First American Storyteller
- 4 Ralph Waldo Emerson Yesterday—America's Coming of Age
- 5 Emerson Today—Architect of American Values
- 6 Emerson Tomorrow—Deconstructing Culture and Self
- 7 Henry David Thoreau—Countercultural Hero
- 8 Thoreau—Stylist and Humorist Extraordinaire
- 9 Walden—Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow
- 10 Edgar Allan Poe
- 11 Poe—Ghost Writer
- 12 Poe's Legacy—The Self as "Haunted Palace"
- 13 Nathaniel Hawthorne and the American Past
- 14 The Scarlet Letter—Puritan Romance
- 15 Hawthorne's "A"—Interpretation and Semiosis
- 16 The Scarlet Letter—Political Tract or Psychological Study?
- 17 Hawthorne Our Contemporary

18 Herman Melville and the Making of Moby-Dick
 19 The Biggest Fish Story of Them All
 20 Ahab and the White Whale
 21 Moby-Dick—Tragedy of Perspective
 22 Melville's "Benito Cereno"—American (Mis)adventure at Sea
 23 "Benito Cereno"—Theater of Power or Power of Theater?
 24 Walt Whitman—The American Bard Appears
 25 Whitman—Poet of the Body
 26 Whitman—Poet of the City
 27 Whitman—Poet of Death
 28 The Whitman Legacy
 29 Uncle Tom's Cabin—The Unread Classic
 30 Stowe's Representation of Slavery
 31 Freedom and Art in Uncle Tom's Cabin
 32 Emily Dickinson—In and Out of Nature
 33 Dickinson's Poetry—Language and Consciousness
 34 Dickinson—Devotee of Death
 35 Dickinson—"Amherst's Madame de Sade"
 36 Dickinson's Legacy
 37 The Adventures of Tom Sawyer—American Paradise Regained
 38 Huckleberry Finn—The Banned Classic
 39 Huckleberry Finn—A Child's Voice, a Child's Vision
 40 Huckleberry Finn, American Orphan
 41 Mark Twain's Pudd'nhead Wilson—Black and White Charade
 42 Henry James and the Novel of Perception
 43 The Turn of the Screw—Do You Believe in Ghosts?
 44 Turning the Screw of Interpretation
 45 Stephen Crane and the Literature of War
 46 The Red Badge of Courage—Brave New World
 47 Stephen Crane—Scientist of Human Behavior
 48 Charlotte Perkins Gilman—War Against Patriarchy
 49 "The Yellow Wallpaper"—Descent into Hell or Free at Last?
 50 Robert Frost and the Spirit of New England
 51 Robert Frost—"At Home in the Metaphor"
 52 Robert Frost and the Fruits of the Earth
 53 T.S. Eliot—Unloved Modern Classic
 54 T.S. Eliot—"The Waste Land" and Beyond
 55 F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby—American Romance
 56 The Great Gatsby—A Story of Lost Illusions?
 57 Fitzgerald's Triumph—Writing the American Dream
 58 Ernest Hemingway's The Sun Also Rises—Novel of the Lost Generation
 59 The Sun Also Rises—Spiritual Quest
 60 Ernest Hemingway—Wordsmith
 61 Hemingway's The Garden of Eden—Female Desire Unleashed
 62 The Garden of Eden—Combat Zone
 63 William Faulkner's The Sound and the Fury—The Idiot's Tale
 64 The Sound and the Fury—Failed Rites of Passage
 65 The Sound and the Fury—Signifying Nothing?
 66 Absalom, Absalom!—Civil War Epic
 67 Absalom, Absalom!—The Language of Love
 68 Absalom, Absalom!—The Overpass to Love
 69 The Grapes of Wrath—American Saga
 70 John Steinbeck—Poet of the Little Man
 71 The Grapes of Wrath—Reconceiving Self and Family
 72 Invisible Man—Black Bildungsroman
 73 Invisible Man—Reconceiving History and Race
 74 Invisible Man—"What Did I Do, to Be So Black and Blue?"
 75 Eugene O'Neill—Great God of American Theater
 76 Long Day's Journey Into Night—There's No Place Like Home
 77 Tennessee Williams—Managing Libido
 78 A Streetcar Named Desire—The Death of Romance
 79 Death of a Salesman—Death of an Ethos?
 80 Death of a Salesman—Tragedy of the American Dream
 81 Toni Morrison's Beloved—Dismembering and Remembering
 82 Beloved—A Story of "Thick Love"
 83 Beloved—Morrison's Writing of the Body
 84 Conclusion to Classics of American Literature

Cycles of American Political Thought

1 book, 6 DVDs

America is often described as a nation of doers. Its folk heroes are men and women of action, like Daniel Boone and Annie Oakley, who subdued an untamed wilderness on the way to forging a great nation. But is that the whole story? Is American history really just a tale of dynamic movers and shakers who left philosophizing to their European counterparts?



In *Cycles of American Political Thought*, you'll examine the often neglected philosophical underpinnings of this nation's history. With renowned political scientist Professor Joseph F. Kobyłka as your guide, you'll explore how this nation of "doers" has, from its birth, been deeply engaged with the most fundamental questions of political philosophy.

36 Lectures

- 1 America—The Philosophical Experiment
- 2 Historical Baggage
- 3 Theoretical Baggage
- 4 A Puritan Beginning
- 5 Expansion and Individualism
- 6 The Revolutionary Context
- 7 The Road to the Declaration of Independence
- 8 A "Natural" Revolutionary—Thomas Paine
- 9 The Unconscious Dialectic of Crèvecoeur
- 10 John Adams—"Constitutionalist"
- 11 A Political Constitution
- 12 A Philosophical Constitution—Faction
- 13 A Philosophical Constitution—Structure
- 14 A Philosophical Constitution—Interpretation
- 15 Disorganized Losers—The Anti-Federalists
- 16 The "Genius" of Thomas Jefferson
- 17 Jacksonian Democracy—The "People" Extended
- 18 Iconoclastic Individualism—Thoreau
- 19 Inclusionist Stirrings—Douglass and Stanton
- 20 The Organic Socialism of Brownson
- 21 American Feudalism—The Vision of Fitzhugh
- 22 Constitutionalizing the Slave Class
- 23 Lincoln's Reconstitution of America
- 24 Equality in the Law and in Practice
- 25 Social Darwinism and Economic Laissez-Faire
- 26 Looking Backward, Looking Forward
- 27 Teddy Roosevelt and Progressivism
- 28 Supreme Court and Laissez-Faire
- 29 The Women's Movement and the 19th Amendment
- 30 Eugene V. Debs and Working-Class Socialism

31 Hamiltonian Means for Jeffersonian Ends
32 FDR, the New Deal, and the Supreme Court
33 The Racial Revolution
34 The New Egalitarianism and Freedom
35 The Reagan Revolution
36 Cycles of American Political Conversations

Emerson, Thoreau, and the Transcendentalist Movement

1 book, 4 DVDs

Where did the America we know today—so different in its fundamental views about almost every aspect of life as to be unrecognizable to our countrymen of two centuries

ago—really come from? How, for example, did the colonial idea of the classroom as a place devoted to “breaking the will” and “subduing the spirit” of students, change to that of a vibrant, even pleasurable experience—including innovations such as kindergarten and recess—with children encouraged to participate actively in their own education?



What forces eventually enabled our nation to see slavery as morally abhorrent and unequivocally wrong, when we had once passed a law permitting the capture and return of escaped slaves who managed to make their way to the “free” North? How did the struggle for women’s rights—not just for the right to vote but also to have control over their own aspirations and destinies—gain the momentum to unleash changes still felt today?

Finally, and perhaps most important of all, what is the source of our distinctly American way of experiencing ourselves—confident in our value as individuals, certain of our ability to discover personal truths in the natural world, self-reliant in the face of uncertainty and change?

Answers to questions like these are found in and around Boston and the town of Concord, Massachusetts, which became, little more than five decades after the American Revolution, the epicenter of a profoundly influential movement that would reshape many beliefs and make possible the America we know today.

That movement is Transcendentalism. Drawing on an array of influences from Europe and the non-Western world, it also offered uniquely American perspectives of thought: an emphasis on the divine in nature, on the value of the individual and intuition, and on belief in a spirituality that might “transcend” one’s own sensory experience to provide a more useful guide for daily living than is possible from empirical and logical reasoning.

24 Lectures

- 1 Emerson, Thoreau, and Transcendentalism
- 2 The Roots of American Transcendentalism
- 3 Emerson and the Idea of America
- 4 Emerson and Transcendentalism
- 5 Emerson’s Influence
- 6 Thoreau—An American Original
- 7 Thoreau at Walden and Beyond
- 8 Thoreau’s Politics
- 9 William Ellery Channing and Unitarianism
- 10 Theodore Parker—Social Reform in the Pulpit
- 11 Amos Bronson Alcott
- 12 Louisa May Alcott
- 13 Margaret Fuller and Rights for Women
- 14 Transcendental Women
- 15 Moncure Conway—Southern Transcendentalist
- 16 Transcendental Eccentrics
- 17 Transcendental Utopias—Living Experiments
- 18 Transcendentalism and Education
- 19 Thoreau, Abolition, and John Brown
- 20 Frederick Douglass
- 21 Emily Dickinson
- 22 Walt Whitman
- 23 Transcendentalism’s 19th-Century Legacy
- 24 The Legacy in the 20th Century and Beyond

Great American Bestsellers: The Books That Shaped America

1 book, 4 DVDs

When a work of fiction or nonfiction captures the attention—and wallets—of American readers, it speaks volumes about the nation’s cultural climate. Best-selling books have played a critical role in influencing the tastes and purchasing habits

of American readers for more than 100 years. Weekly best-seller lists appear in various national newspapers. Nationwide reading clubs help propel books (and authors) into mass popularity. Strategic marketing campaigns help embed the importance of a particular work in the American public’s



consciousness.

But there is more to America's great best-selling books than the sales figures they rake in. American bestsellers also offer us ways to appreciate and understand particular periods of American culture.

The 24 lectures of *Great American Bestsellers: The Books That Shaped America* give you a pointed look at key best-selling works and their places within the greater fabric of American cultural history. Guided by award-winning Professor Peter Conn of the University of Pennsylvania, you explore representative bestsellers at various stages of American history, from the first book published in the English-speaking New World to the blockbuster authors who dominate the 21st-century publishing industry.

24 Lectures

- 1 Why Do Bestsellers Matter?
- 2 The Bay Psalm Book
- 3 Common Sense
- 4 The Last of the Mohicans
- 5 Uncle Tom's Cabin
- 6 Ragged Dick
- 7 Little Women
- 8 The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
- 9 The Virginian
- 10 The House of Mirth
- 11 The Jungle
- 12 Main Street
- 13 The Maltese Falcon
- 14 The Good Earth
- 15 Gone with the Wind
- 16 How to Win Friends and Influence People
- 17 The Grapes of Wrath
- 18 Native Son
- 19 The Catcher in the Rye
- 20 To Kill a Mockingbird
- 21 Catch-22
- 22 The Woman Warrior
- 23 John Adams
- 24 Recent Bestsellers

Masterworks of American Art

1 book, 4 DVDs

A nation's identity is expressed through its art. Great painters capture the essence of a culture's brightest hopes, deepest anxieties, and most profound



aspirations. They provide an aesthetic road map to a nation's history, recording the lives of its citizens and reflecting the personality of an entire people. But all too often, Americans themselves are unfamiliar with the great artistic legacy of their own country. Many of us study the great artists of Europe—Leonardo and Rubens, Degas and Monet—but neglect the remarkable painters of our own national tradition. And yet the tradition of American art is filled with spectacular masterpieces that raise intriguing questions:

- How did the founding of this new nation find expression in art?
- Have our democratic ideals influenced the growth and development of American art?
- Did artists in this nascent culture follow time-honored aesthetic models, or did they pioneer new styles to communicate their burgeoning sense of national pride?
- Is there something uniquely “American” about American art?

These are the kinds of questions you explore in *Masterworks of American Art*. In this sweeping survey, you encounter the brilliant paintings of the homegrown masters who documented the birth of our nation from its colonial roots up to the brink of World War I and the birth of Modernism.

Your guide is Professor William Kloss. A noted scholar and art historian, Professor Kloss has taught more than 100 courses as an independent lecturer for the Smithsonian Institution's seminar and travel program. Through 24 engaging and informative lectures, he shares his deep passion for the art of this nation while offering remarkable insights into the relationship between America's history and its art.

24 Lectures

- 1 Art in the New World
- 2 18th-Century Colonial Art
- 3 The Genius of Copley and C. W. Peale
- 4 A Revolution in Art
- 5 Portraiture in Federal America
- 6 Early Historical and Landscape Painting
- 7 The 1820s—Art in the Era of Good Feelings
- 8 Thomas Cole and the American Landscape
- 9 Thomas Cole—The Late Years
- 10 Other Views, Other Visions
- 11 American Genre Painting
- 12 Native Americans and Westward Expansion
- 13 The Civil War in Art

- 14 The Glow of Peace
- 15 Art—The Mirror of Social Change
- 16 1876–1893—The Civic Revival of the Nation
- 17 1885–1900—Contrasts of Dark and Light
- 18 Americans Abroad—Expatriate Painters
- 19 Thomas Eakins—Innovation and Rejection
- 20 Thomas Eakins—Success and Scandal
- 21 The Last Years—“And Who Is Eakins?”
- 22 Winslow Homer in England and New England
- 23 Winslow Homer—The Last Years
- 24 Ourselves and Our Posterity

The Skeptics Guide to American History

1 book, 4 DVDs

For most Americans, the history of the United States is built on a set of long-accepted beliefs about events, each of which resonates in the nation's collective memory. But what if those beliefs—however familiar—don't really tell the whole story? Our knowledge of history—or what we believe to be history—is the lens through which we view and interpret the world. And when that lens is distorted with misleading information, it has powerful effects on how we perceive the present and how we make decisions in the future, from choosing whom to vote for to interpreting the latest developments in today's news and opinion pieces.

To take a skeptical approach to American history is not to dabble in imaginative conspiracy theories or doubt the essence of the American experiment; rather, it's to reframe your understanding of this great nation's past and actually strengthen your appreciation for what makes American history such a fascinating chapter in the larger story of Western civilization.



Sorting through misconceptions, myths, and half-truths about America's past is also a chance to revisit some of the country's greatest episodes, figures, and themes from a fresh perspective and an opportunity to hone the way you think about and interpret the past, the present, and even the future.

In *The Skeptic's Guide to American History*, you can do just that. This bold 24-lecture course examines many commonly held myths and half-truths about American history and prompts you to think about what really happened in the nation's past—as opposed to what many believe happened.

Delivered by award-winning scholar and Professor Mark A. Stoler of The University of Vermont, these lectures demonstrate how reconsidering some of the most popular notions of U.S. history can yield new (and sometimes startlingly different) interpretations of political, social, economic, and military events. But more than just debunking commonly accepted accounts, you'll be able to replace these misconceptions with insightful truths.

24 Lectures

- 1 Religious Toleration in Colonial America?
- 2 Neither American nor Revolutionary?
- 3 The Constitution Did Not Create a Democracy
- 4 Washington—Failures and Real Accomplishments
- 5 Confusions about Jefferson and Hamilton
- 6 Andrew Jackson—An Odd Symbol of Democracy
- 7 The Second Great Awakening—Enduring Impacts
- 8 Did Slavery Really Cause the Civil War?
- 9 The Civil War's Actual Turning Points
- 10 The Myth of Laissez-Faire
- 11 Misconceptions about the Original Populists
- 12 Labor in America—A Strange History
- 13 Myths about American Isolation and Empire
- 14 Early Progressives Were Not Liberals
- 15 Woodrow Wilson and the Rating of Presidents
- 16 The Roaring Twenties Reconsidered
- 17 Hoover and the Great Depression Revisited
- 18 What Did Roosevelt's New Deal Really Do?
- 19 World War II Misconceptions and Myths
- 20 Was the Cold War Inevitable?
- 21 The Real Blunders of the Vietnam War
- 22 Myths about American Wars
- 23 Who Matters in American History?
- 24 History Did Not Begin with Us

American Resource Center supports lifelong learning by offering DVD courses for home and educational use free of charge. The Great Courses (TGC) is a series of college-level audio and video courses produced and distributed by The Teaching Company (TTC). Professors in these video lectures are some of the best in their area of expertise, and have distinguished backgrounds as university professors, lecturers, and historians.

Courses, which can consist of even 84 lectures, come with multiple DVDs and a supplemental booklet with outlines of the individual lectures, recommended reading lists, general bibliographies, and questions to consider. Teachers in adult education will benefit from these materials as they can be used both as supplemental materials for classes and background information.

The American Resource Center has acquired eight of these DVD courses on the following themes:

- The American Identity
- Before 1776: Life in the American Colonies
- Classics of American Literature
- Cycles of American Political Thought
- Emerson, Thoreau, and the Transcendentalist Movement
- Great American Bestsellers: The Books That Shaped America
- Masterworks of American Art
- The Skeptics Guide to American History

**The DVD courses are available for home and educational use free of charge.
Please contact the ARC for more information.**